

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNESCO, AORG
SUBJECT: UNESCO GENEVA GROUP REPORT

REF: (A) PAMIS 10323; (B) GENEVA 05921

1. UNESCO GENEVA GROUP MET 27 APRIL 1978 AND ADOPTED
FOLLOWING REPORT FOR 2-3 MAY GENEVA GROUP
CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING:

A. FIVE REGULAR MEETINGS, ONE SPECIAL MEETING

TWO CONSULTATIONS WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL HAVE BEEN
HELD IN THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1977 TO MAY 1978.

B. THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD, DISCUSSIONS HAVE
CENTERED ON SEEKING WAYS TO LIMIT THE GROWTH OF
UNESCO'S BUDGET, AND TO INFLUENCE AND IMPROVE PROGRAM
EFFICIENCY. EARLY IN JANUARY, A GENEVA GROUP DELE-
GATION MET WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO DISCUSS THESE
ISSUES, THEREBY FOLLOWING THROUGH ON THE INITIATIVE
WHICH WAS BEGUN BY A LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL,
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DATED JULY 25, 1977. DURING THIS MEETING, THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO ENTERTAIN
THE GROUP'S PROPOSAL AS TO AN ACCEPTABLE BUDGET LEVEL.
SUBSEQUENTLY, THE GENEVA GROUP, ALONG WITH BUDGET
EXPERTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES,
MET WITH UNESCO'S DIRECTORS OF BUDGET AND PLANNING, AND
IN CONSULTATION WITH CAPITALS, REACHED A NEARLY

UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON A BUDGET LEVEL OF \$270 MILLION WHICH MEMBERS COULD AGREE TO ACCEPT FOR PURPOSES OF PRESENTING THE DIRECTOR GENERAL WITH A FIGURE. THE STATEMENT ACCOMPANYING THE PRESENTATION OF THIS FIGURE TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ON FEBRUARY 24, WHICH ALSO OUTLINES THE ASSUMPTIONS UNDERLYING THIS FIGURE, IS ATTACHED. (STATEMENT IS "GENEVA GROUP POSITION" GIVEN PARA 1, REF A.)

C. THE GENEVA GROUP BELIEVES THAT ITS ACTIONS TO DATE HAVE HAD A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN BRINGING HIM TO EXERCISE A MEASURE OF BUDGETARY CONSTRAINT. HE HAS TRIMMED ABOUT \$5 MILLION FROM HIS INITIAL DRAFT PROPOSAL (FALL, 1977), BRINGING HIS MOST RECENT SUBMISSION TO \$275.5 MILLION AT AN EXCHANGE RATE OF 4.9 FRANCS TO THE DOLLAR. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 23 PERCENT (WHICH INCLUDES INFLATION AND REAL PROGRAM GROWTH, ETC.) OVER THE PREVIOUS BIENNIAL BUDGET.

2. DURING THE 27 APRIL MEETING THE PERMREPS FROM BELGIUM, ITALY, AND JAPAN INFERRED THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPORT A BUDGET FIGURE AS HIGH AS \$270 MILLION. BELGIUM AND ITALIAN PERMREPS ALSO REPORTED THAT DEPUTY SOVIET PERMREP HAD APPROACHED THEM ON POSSIBLE COOPERATION ON BUDGET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MATTERS. POSSIBILITY FOR SUCH COOPERATION WON NO SUPPORT FROM MEMBERS.
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